

Notes & Queries

Manuscripts to Write Home About

SUBMITTED BY JUDITH KEARNEY

SOMETIME AROUND the Thanksgiving holiday, 2010, I received a call from Barbara Dunn, administrative director and librarian of the Hawaiian Historical Society (HHS). She asked if I would consider volunteering at the HHS as cataloger to assist with inputting some of the Society's manuscript material into the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). Having recently had some experience at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Hamilton Library cataloging department, I was available and happy that Barbara thought I could help, so I immediately began to input material into Library World. This is the system that HHS has chosen for cataloging its material into OPAC, allowing researchers, or whoever has internet access, to see what the HHS holds.

The first part of the project was to create electronic records for those materials that are described in the card catalog. The second part was to input those materials that already had a finding aid. The third part, or "mopping up," is to create original records for those materials that have not been cataloged since they were accessioned into the

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collection. There are no bibliographic records for these manuscript materials. The following is a sample of some of them:

“Journal of *H.M.S. Providence* at Tahiti, April 1792–July 1792,”
by George Tobin

Photocopy of handwritten original at Mitchell Library, Sydney.
Pages 143–238 of Journal. MS Tobin, George

This is a first-hand description of George Tobin’s life as a third lieutenant in the Royal Navy in the late eighteenth-century. Tobin’s narrative begins with Chapter 5 and discusses the social life and customs of Tahiti and Tahitian royalty at the time. The voyage to Tahiti on the *Providence* was under the command of Captain William Bligh, whose logbook can also be accessed at fatefulvoyage.com, which is also located in the bibliographic record for call number MS Tobin.

“The Thomas Hayden Treadway Collection, 1894–1944.”

Original handwritten letters. MS Treadway, Thomas

Thomas H. Treadway served on the Board of Health for the Republic of Hawai‘i and then as the auditor in the treasurer’s office for the Territorial government. Addressed by his father, Henry G. Treadway, as “My Dear Tom” and “Dear Don Toma(s)so,” correspondence from his father came to Treadway from Kobe or Yokohama over the period 1903–1912, apparently in response to Thomas’s letters.

A second folder contains business and legal documents including deeds and leases and the appointment of Thomas Treadway to the office of Deputy Registrar of Public Accounts, Territory of Hawai‘i in June 1910. The most poignant group of documents in this folder are those related to the attempt to sue for the loss of the life of Henry K. Rice, a relative of Treadway by way of his marriage to Orilla Spooner. Henry K. Rice was killed on the American steamer, *Aztec*, when a German submarine torpedoed it on April 1, 1917.

“Letters to Relatives, December 9, 1941–March 5, 1942,”
by Kenneth Weld Emerson, Sr.

Original typescripts. MS Emerson, Kenneth W.

In the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the civilian population struggled first to make sense of the dramatic event, and then to let their

loved ones on the mainland know they had survived. Some personal letters survived and these first-hand accounts give a glimpse of what it was like to see, feel, and deal with the events of December 7th, when "It seemed absolutely impossible for such a thing to happen . . ."

"Ambassador William R. Castle, Jr. in Japan: the U.S.-Japanese negotiations during the London Conference of 1930," by Alfred L. Castle II.

Unpublished manuscript. Copy of typescript. MS Castle, Alfred L.

The purpose of the London Conference was to promote disarmament after the devastation of the First World War. The negotiations began with the Washington Conference of 1921-22; Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France, and Italy came together in London in 1930. The U.S. delegation included Secretary of State Henry Lewis Stimson; the newly appointed ambassador to Japan, William R. Castle, Jr.; U.S. Ambassadors Dwight Morrow (Mexico), Charles Dawes (Great Britain), and Hugh Gibson (Belgium); Charles Adams, Secretary of the Navy; and Senators David Reed (Pennsylvania) and Joseph T. Robinson (Arkansas).

George Brown, U. S. Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands, Correspondence, 1843-1846.

Original handwritten letters. MS Brown, George

George Brown, first U.S. Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands, described life and events as he saw them in Papeete, Tahiti and the Sandwich Islands, in correspondence to and from his wife, Hawaiian Minister of Foreign Affairs R.C. Wyllie, and others.

"Hawaii Notes," journal of Charles Ford Harding, June 20, 1913-September 28, 1913, introduction and notes by Anne Harding Spoehr.

Original journal and typescript. MS Harding, Charles Ford

The author wrote this journal during a summer trip to Hawai'i in the company of his wife, Hattie, and their companions, George Herbert and Helen Castle Mead. Many of Mrs. Mead's relatives are mentioned because many of the hosts during the trip to O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i island, were Mrs. Mead's relatives. The donor has generously assisted us

with a typescript. (The original writing is in pencil in a smallish hand, in a notebook that, although cared for, is 100 years old.) A “cast of characters” is also provided.

Kalākaua, King. [Papers: letters, telegrams]

Mostly original documents. MS B/K128 Kalākaua

File includes notes from the King to Honorable Godfrey Brown in his capacity of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary of the Army and Navy, requesting an audience to discuss appointing Robert Wilcox to the Office of Military Engineer. File also includes other letters of a more personal nature, one of the king’s poems, and telegrams regarding his 1875 trip to Milwaukee. Engraved invitations to balls at the Palace with gold lettering and hand-addressed envelopes in the last folder enliven this small collection of Kalākaua documents.

“Ormond E. Wall, D.D.S.: biography,” compiled by Diane Glover, 1979.

Typescript, 16 pages, plus photographs. MS Wall, Ormond

Ormond Wall was born in Santa Barbara, California in 1876 and came to Hawai‘i with his mother and siblings following his father, Charles J. Wall. Charles Wall served as architect on the ‘Iolani Palace project until his dismissal in 1880. Ormond Wall went to dental college in Baltimore and then returned to Honolulu in 1898 to begin his dental practice. He was also an inventor. He patented, in 1896, the “Dental Plugger,” U.S. Patent 558443; a rack for holding false teeth, U.S. Patent 721528, was issued in 1903; a “Process of making artificial dentures and occluding-form for the same,” possibly the most important of the three, U.S. Patent 1303223, was granted in 1919.

“Honolulu in 1902,” Constance Restarick Withington’s Memories.

Original typescript, 8 pages. MS Withington, Constance

Mrs. Withington’s reminiscences of life in Honolulu began after she and her family moved from San Francisco. Her father, the Rev. Henry B. Restarick, was elected the first Bishop of Honolulu of the American Episcopal Church. Mrs. Withington’s first recollections include the frustration her mother expressed in trying to find a suitable home for the family

that had “modern conveniences” such as screens. Finally, the Restarick family moved into a home built “like California houses” on Beretania Street where the rent was a reasonable \$60 a month. Mrs. Withington edited her father’s book, *My Personal Recollections: The Unfinished Memoirs of Henry Bond Restarick, Bishop of Honolulu, 1902–1920*,” which was published in 1938.

[British Royal Family and Hawaii Connections, 1810–1891, in the Royal Archives].

Original correspondence and photocopies of documents.

MS Royal Archives

Mr. Hardy Spoehr had a question related to a visit to Hawai‘i by Alfred, Prince of Wales, in 1869. In a response to Mr. Spoehr’s query, the Deputy Registrar of the Royal Archives, Royal Collections Trust, Windsor Castle, sent a list of records documenting the interactions between the British and Hawaiian royal families. Included in these documents are photocopied pages of the *Annual Register* for 1824 that describe the arrival of Kamehameha II and Kamāmalu and their subsequent deaths from measles. The *Register* details the lying in state of the king and his consort at Osborn’s Hotel, and the inscriptions placed on the coffins. Mr. Spoehr’s gift of these documents also includes a list of photographs of *ali‘i* held in the Royal Photograph Collection.

[Notes on Davida Malo]

Typescripts and photocopies of documents. MS Malo, David

This compilation of documents includes a photocopy of *The Friend*, Volume 53, Number 8, August 1895, featuring “David Malo’s Lament for Kaahumanu,” by Curtis J. Lyons. Lyons states that Malo wrote, “May 22, 1834, a most striking production in Hawaiian verse in memory of the honored regent, Queen Kaahumanu . . .” It is in Hawaiian and translated into English, although Lyons admits he “do [es] not pretend to be able to really translate this production.” Also among the documents are a transcription of an article, a eulogy/biography recalling all the gifts of the Rev. Malo, from *The Polynesian*, November 5, 1852, and photocopies of land commission award and probate court papers in Hawaiian in Malo’s own words. Jason Achiu from the Hawai‘i State Archives translated the legal documents.

“Reminiscences of a Kamaaina,” by Johanna Wilcox: a descendant of Isaac Davis and niece of Robert Wilcox.

Photocopy of typescript, 21 pages. MS Wilcox, Johanna

Written at age 68, Johanna Wilcox describes her experiences growing up during territorial years and during statehood. She was a direct descendant of Isaac Davis on her mother’s side and her grandaunt was Lucy Peabody, a lady-in-waiting to Queen Emma; her father’s brother was Robert Wilcox. Ms. Wilcox remembers the old ways, living Hawaiian style in nineteenth-century Hawai‘i. The ways of singing, dancing, and even visiting all had their own charms. She recalled the overthrow, the revolt that sent her Uncle Robert to jail, and the “disgraceful page in Hawai‘i’s history” when Queen Lili‘uokalani was imprisoned. She described the death and funeral of Lili‘uokalani, and events in and around Honolulu during the mourning period. Johanna Wilcox was a “Yeomanette” in the Naval Reserve Force during WWI, and the first woman to register to vote in Hawai‘i in 1920. She shared her thoughts about life in Hawai‘i during the intra-war period and discussed political life during the years leading to statehood.

“Women in print: Hawai‘i in the 19th century or, curious women—and ladies full of curiosity,” lecture by David W. Forbes for Women’s History Week, ca. 1982.

Typescript and photocopies of articles. MS Forbes, David W.

The most well known lady traveler to the Sandwich Islands in the nineteenth-century is perhaps Isabella Bird. However, there were several other lady travelers who wrote travelogues as early as the 1850s, when Ida Laura Reyer Pfeiffer, who met Pomare IV, Queen of Tahiti, began publishing her adventures. Another, Ada Clare, born Jane McElhenney, was known as the “Queen of Bohemia.” Ms. Clare wrote a series of articles, “Life and Manners in the Sandwich Islands,” for the *San Francisco Bulletin*, that were not necessarily well received by the island community. Constance FredERICA Gordon Cumming published *Fire Fountains: the Kingdom of Hawaii, its Volcanoes, and the History of Its Missions* in 1883. Later books published were *Scenes in Hawaii, or Life in the Sandwich Islands*, 1888 by Minnie Caroline Robinson Grant; and *Hawaii and a Revolution*, 1888, *Alice’s Visit to the Hawaiian Islands*, 1900; *Reminiscences of Mrs. Mary S. Rice*, 1908, and *Memoirs of Hon. Bernice Pauahi Bishop*, 1908, all by Mary H. Krout.

“Notes of Travel in the Sandwich Islands. . . ,”

[By a Special Correspondent.]

Typescripts and photocopies of newspaper articles. MS Alta

A series of articles published in the *Daily Alta California*, the San Francisco newspaper made most famous by Mark Twain’s articles. Here are articles describing travel on O’ahu, then to Hawai’i island in 1860 beginning with Volume XII, Number 99, Monday, April 9, 1860 and continuing through Volume XII, No. 165, June 14, 1860. The first installment, beginning with “Departure” from San Francisco, sings the praises of “Life at Sea—Romantic Sailing . . . A Calm before a Storm . . . Arrival at Honolulu, etc.” The trip from O’ahu describes the “beauties of schooner traveling” and the approach to Hawai’i island from leeward. Articles from Hawai’i island describe the vegetation, ranching, volcanic activity and the appearance of Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Mauna Hualalia [*sic*].

The above manuscripts represent just a handful of what has been cataloged so far. When this segment of the project is complete, the next phase will be to catalog the Hawaiian language material.

If you are curious as to what you might find in the OPAC, click on the link <http://www.hawaiianhistory.org/manuscript-collections/>. When you arrive at the destination page, look to the right for the letters OPAC under LIBRARY LINKS. Click on the OPAC tab and that will take you to the LibraryWorld search screen for Hawaiian Historical Society. You may search by keywords, title, author, or subject headings.